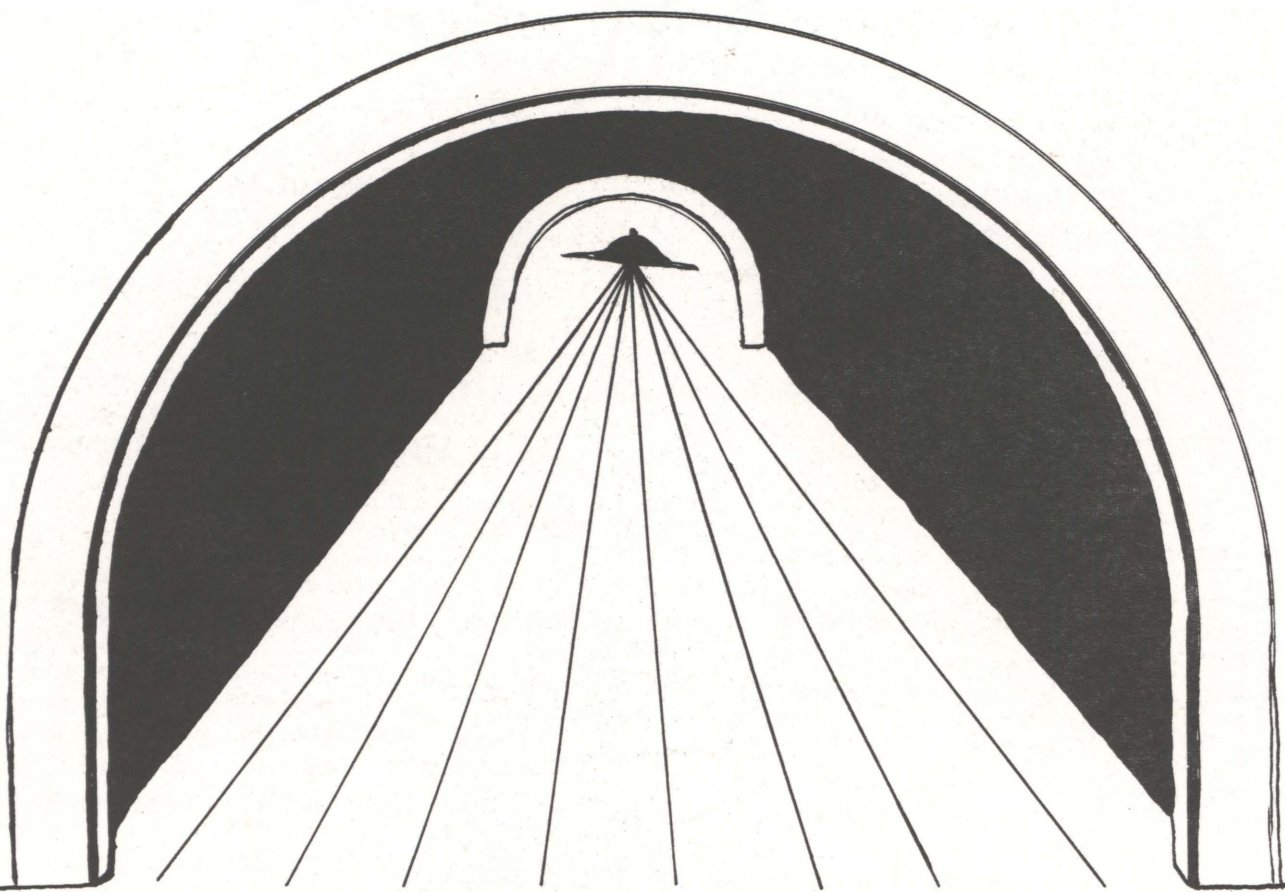


# UFO COMMENTARY

A Journal of Progressive UFOlogy

Vol.3 No.1 Fall 1972



**UFOLOGY: THE ENDLESS TUNNEL**

# UFO

# COMMENTARY

Vol.3 No.1

Fall, 1972

*UFO COMMENTARY*, published quarterly in March, June, September and December, is a scholarly journal devoted to unidentified flying objects. *UFO COMMENTARY* is available by subscription or through exchange with other publications.

Subscription: \$2.00 per year. Single copy: 60¢

Make all remittances payable to Patrick A. Huyghe.

All submissions will be carefully considered, but must be accompanied by a self addressed envelope with sufficient postage if they are to be returned. We reserve the right to publish any and all letters sent to us, unless otherwise indicated.

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## CONTENTS

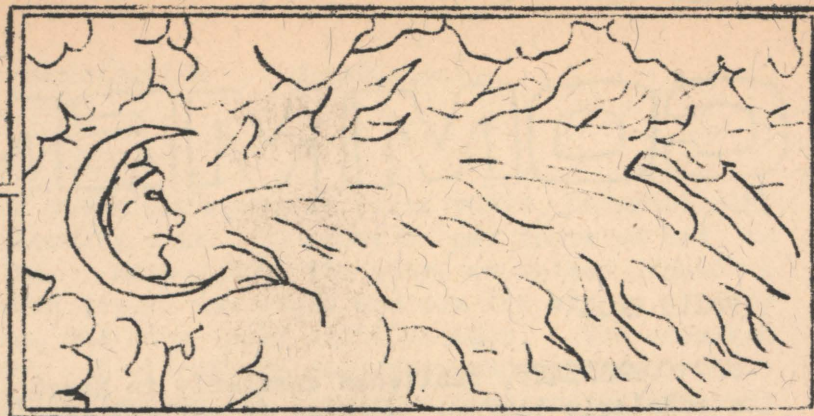
Editorial.....	2
The Delphos Case; an in depth investigation - Conclusion, by <i>Ted Phillips</i> .....	3
Comparison Cases.....	12
Report of Photographic Consultation, by <i>Niel Lynch</i> .....	13
The World Sighting Index, by <i>Allen Benz</i> .....	14
Index to Volume Two of <i>UFO COMMENTARY</i> .....	18

Cover design: Gladys Huyghe

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# EDITORIAL



What is ufology? Is it the long walk down an endless tunnel that Gene Du-plantier, of the late *Saucers, Space and Science*, mentioned in his farewell editorial? Is it, as Aime Michel recently suggested, the most difficult and most perilous, intellectually speaking, of all forms of research?

We think, that in great measure, the answers to these questions lie within the individual. The manner in which a person approaches the subject, we believe is of paramount importance. Those who enter the field with preconceived notions -- "They are space ships" or "They are hallucinations" -- are in trouble from the start.

To maintain one's balance -- let alone make any progress in the research effort -- one should adopt the attitude of open critical inquiry. This consists of sticking to the facts as much as possible. It means interviewing and discussing the reported incident(s) with the witness(es) when this is possible, gathering the relevant data, examining and determining its significance, and coordinating this with similar data. Then, one may *attempt* interpretations.

Besides an open attitude, one should keep expectations small and develop patience. Ufology is not for those who want quick answers. Ufology is for the long haul. We do not expect to solve the UFO enigma. To do so would be intellectually arrogant and a violation of the ideas propounded above.

We gather; we record for today and for posterity, and we keep in mind Hynek's statement: "There will be a 30th century science."

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The articles in *UFO COMMENTARY* do not represent any consensus of beliefs. We do not expect that readers of this journal will sympathize with all of the sentiments they find therein, for some of our contributors will flatly disagree with others; but we hold that while keeping clear of mere vagaries *UFO COMMENTARY* can do more to advance ufological knowledge by a broad hospitality to divergent ideas than it can by identifying itself with one school. *UFO COMMENTARY* does not accept responsibility for the views expressed by contributors in any articles, signed or unsigned, which appears in its pages. What this journal does accept is the responsibility for giving them a chance to appear.

*The Delphos Case: An indepth investigation - Conclusion*  
*Ted Phillips*

Following the discussion of the sighting (on my first visit, December 4th) the Johnsons and I went to the landing site. In order to get there we had to cross an extremely muddy farm lot. Approaching the site, we walked around a small shed<sup>10</sup> and through scattered trees. One could now see the ring. Thirty two days after it had been found, the ring could still be seen. The unmelted snow perfectly outlined the ring. We found the soil surrounding the ring extremely moist; conversely, after we removed the snow from portions of the ring we discovered dry, light brown surface soil in direct contrast with the black, moist in the ring center and around the ring.

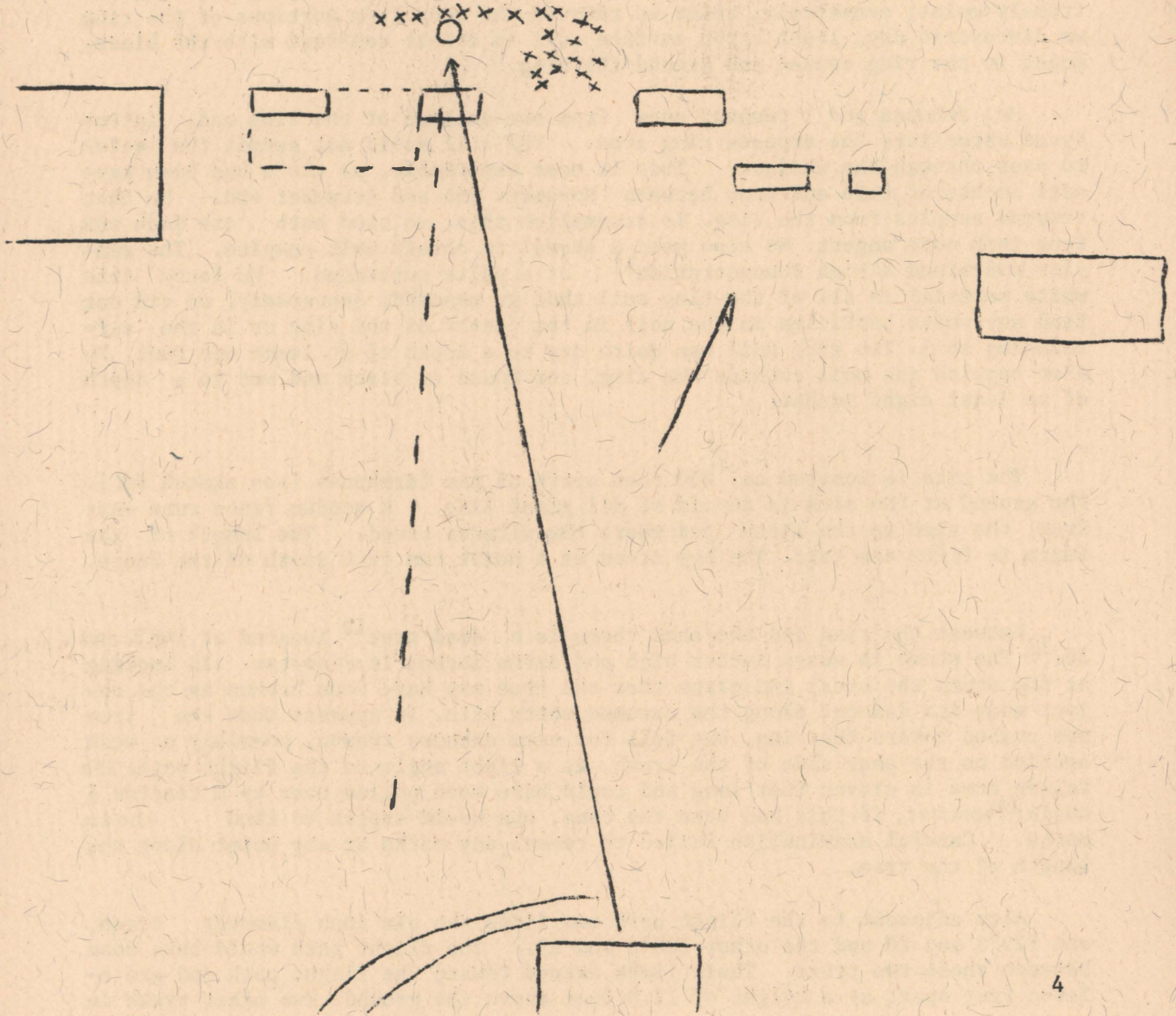
Mr. Johnson and I removed snow from one section of the ring and introduced water into the exposed ring area. The soil would not permit the water to pass through the surface. This is most remarkable, as there had been several inches of rain and snow between November 2nd and December 4th. We then removed samples from the ring. To accomplish this, we used both . one inch and four inch core augers. We also used a shovel to obtain bulk samples. The samples contained a high concentration<sup>11</sup> of a white substance. We found this white material in all of the ring soil that we exposed; conversely, we did not find any white particles in the soil in the center of the ring or in the surrounding soil. The ring soil was quite dry to a depth of at least one foot. We also sampled the soil outside the ring, and found it black and wet to a depth of at least eight inches.

The site is located ca. 250 feet north of the farmhouse [see sketch *Ed.*]. The ground at the site is devoid of all plant life. A wooden fence runs west from the shed to the sheep pen where the witness stood. The length of the fence is fifty one feet. The boy stood at a point ten feet south of the fence.

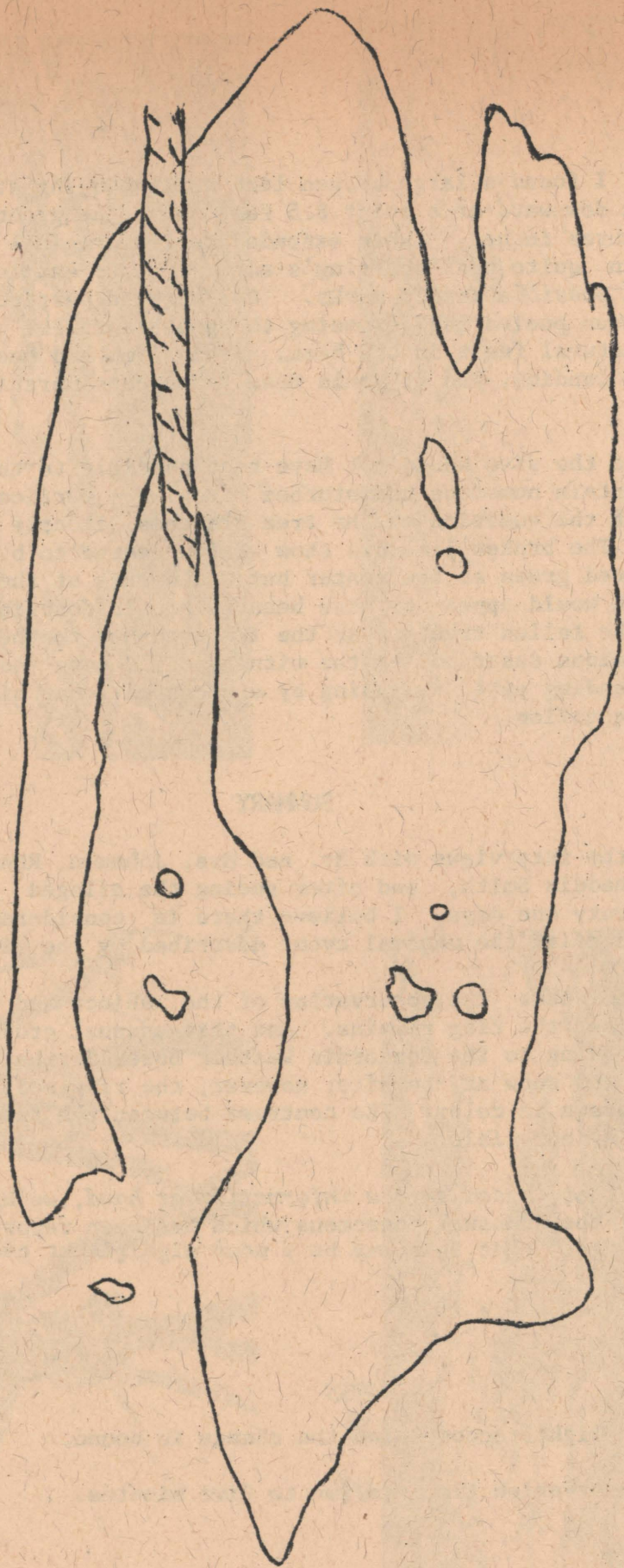
Between the ring and the shed there is a dead tree<sup>12</sup> located at 145°S and 16.<sup>13</sup> The stump is seven inches high and seven inches in diameter. In looking at the stump the break indicates that the tree may have been broken as the object made its descent along the assumed entry path. It appears that the tree was pushed toward the ring, but fell for some unknown reason, possibly a weak section on the east side of the trunk, at a right angle to the flight path. The fallen tree is eleven feet long and could have been pulled over by a tractor & chain,<sup>14</sup> however, if this had been the case, one would expect to find chain marks. Careful examination failed to reveal any marks at any point along the length of the tree.

Also adjacent to the flight path one finds two six inch diameter trees, one 125°S and 20 and the other 180°S and 13. The flight path would have been between these two trees. Their limbs extend toward the flight path and are eleven feet apart at a height of 12.5 feet above the ground. Two other trees in the immediate area reportedly glowed and showed a slight discoloration<sup>15</sup> on

...continued



N



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the ring side. I found a large broken limb still hanging at 260°W and 11. The limb is broken downward at a point 8.5 feet above the ground. The diameter of the break is three inches. When extended to its original position, the limb would have been quite near the ring's edge. Close examination of this limb showed several *possible* impact marks. One mark in particular is of interest; the bark had been peeled back exposing the green surface. This area is definitely not a natural fault in the bark. This limb had been alive at the time of the alleged landing, and it would have taken considerable pressure to have broken it.

Entry into the site would not have been possible to the north or east as those areas contain numerous undisturbed trees. A vertical descent or ascent would be out of the question as the tree branches directly above the ring were not damaged. The broken limb did show what appeared to be heat blisters. The branches appeared green at the center but would snap at the slightest pressure. The flight path would appear to have been as Ronald described it, between two trees, over the fallen tree, over the low shed and to the south. An object with the dimensions described by the witness could have made its way into, and out of, the landing site. A landing by any conventional aircraft is completely out of the question.

#### SUMMARY

Based on the interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Ronald, Sheriff Enlow and reporter Thaddia Smith, and after seeing the alleged landing site over a period of seventy one days, I believe there is considerable evidence which would seem to confirm the unusual event described by the witnesses.

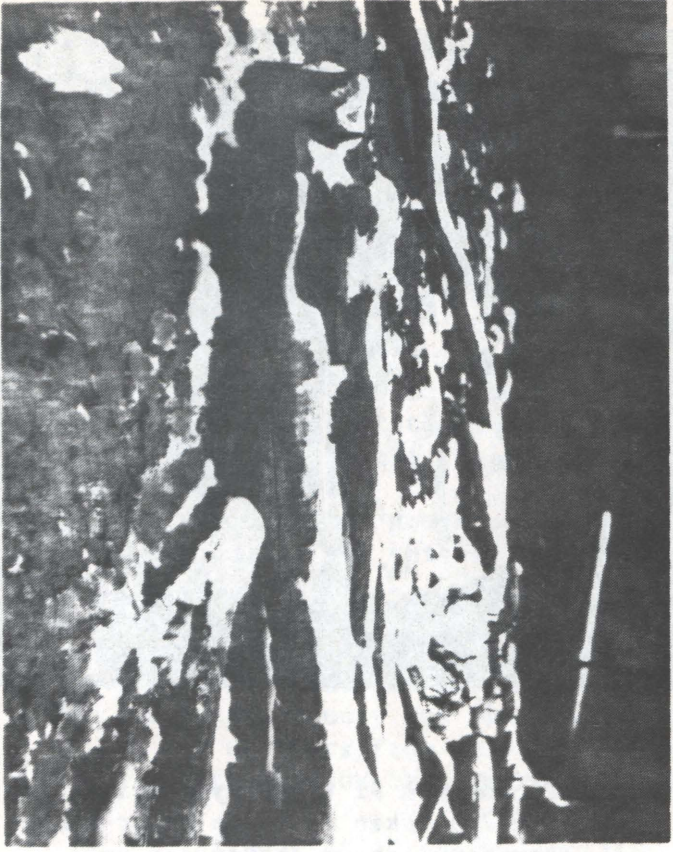
If one eliminates the observation of the object and the other evidence found at the site, the ring remains. And this unusual ground mark is indeed a mystery. According to the Concordia Weather Bureau, there had been several inches of rain and snow at the site; however, the ring soil remained extremely dry and light brown in color. The contrast between the ring soil and the surrounding soil is incredible.

I believe that, *based on the information at hand*, we have here an excellent example of the unusual phenomena which has been reported by so many for so long, and suggest that this may be a most significant case.

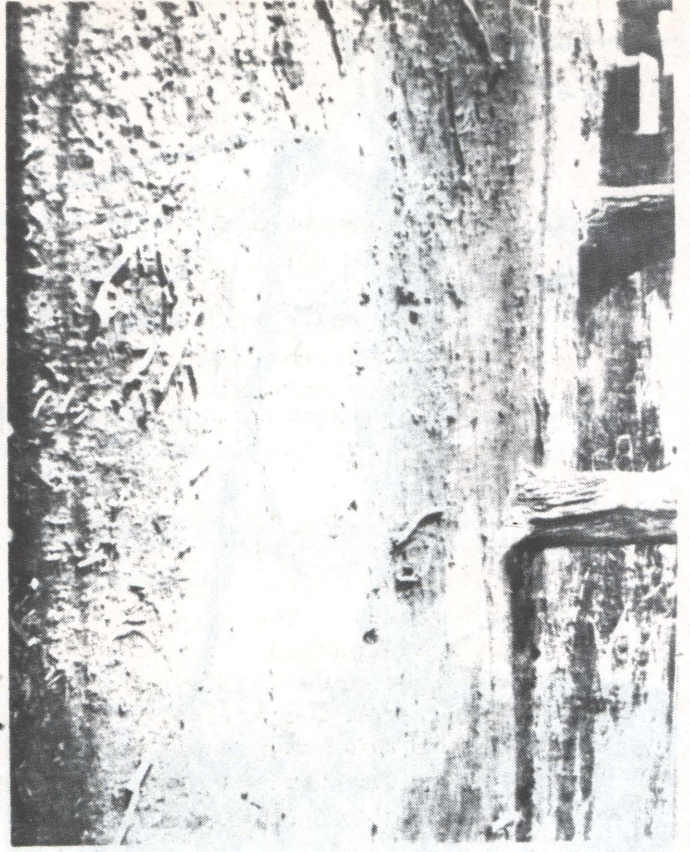
#### NOTES

1. No change in lights accompanied the change in sound.
2. The total observation time was two to five minutes.

...continued



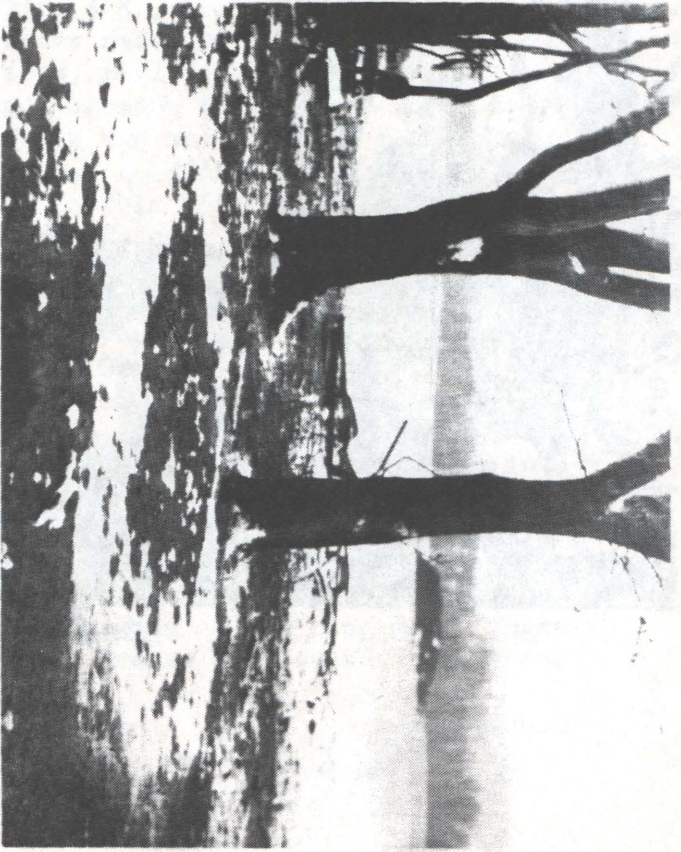
3



# 1



# 4



# 2

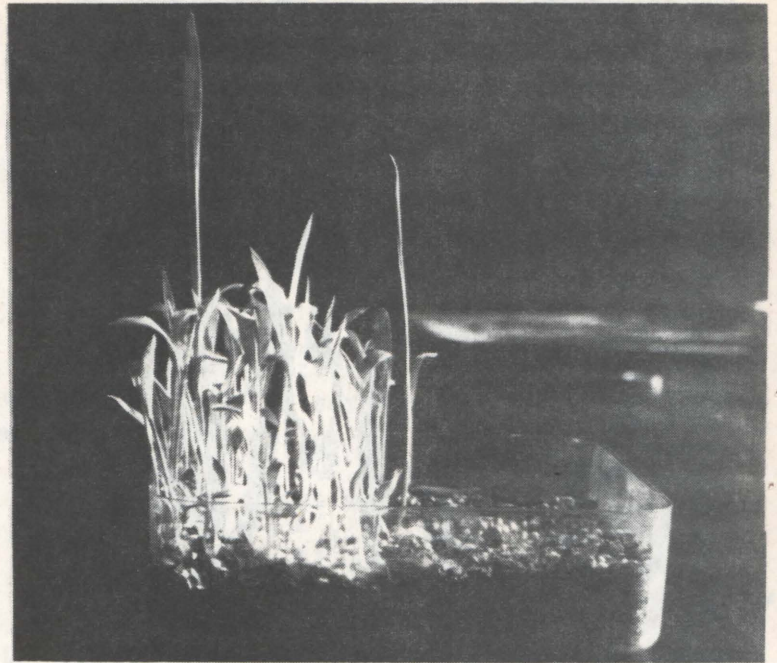




# 5



# 6



# 7

Photograph #1 taken by Sheriff (Nov. 3, 1971) taken 19 hours after the observation, shows dehydrated soil.

#2 shows the ring on December 4, 1971 as photographed by Phillips.

#3 Seven inch diameter tree knocked to ground along flight path.

#4 Ronald and Mr. Johnson.

#5 Three inch diameter tree limb broken over ring. Tree showed numerous (heat?) blisters.

#6 Ronald Johnson and dog.

#7 Growth in normal soil taken five feet from ring. No growth in ring soil.

3. For several days following the incident his eyes hurt and he suffered from headaches.
4. To my knowledge there had been no UFO sightings in central Kansas during 1971.
5. Contrary to some published reports, Ronald did not attempt to convey to me the idea that the object was a spaceship; nor did he say anything to me about any "force field" being emitted from the object.
6. As mentioned previously, the entire sighting took place within two to five minutes, and this is as much as they could remember.
7. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"In reference to the UFO sighting at the Durel Johnson residence near Delphos, Kansas on November 2, 1971, the Johnsons are life time residents of Ottawa County and the Delphos community. They are well known and respected by Officers from this Department. In the opinion of this Officer any information given by them would be accurate to the best of their knowledge...."

"Signed: Ralph Enlow, Sheriff  
Ottawa County, Kansas"

8. November 3, 1971

Report of Harlan Enlow, Undersheriff

UFO SIGHTING AT DUREL JOHNSON RESIDENCE 1[mi.] N., ½[mi.] E. OF DELPHOS

"At approx. 1:30 p.m. 11-03-71 this Officer received a call from Thaddia Smith, a reporter for the *Delphos Republican*, advising that a UFO had been reported at 7:00 p.m. 11-02-71 at the Durel Johnson farm 1 mile north and ½ mile east of Delphos. Mrs. Smith advised that she had reported the incident to the Weather Bureau at Concordia, Kansas and to KSAL Radio in Salina, Kansas and that both advised her to report it to this office.

"At approx. 2:00 p.m. 11-03-71 Sheriff Ralph Enlow, Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Kenneth Yager, and Undersheriff Harlan Enlow went to the Johnson farm and talked to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their son Ronnie who had observed the UFO the previous night.

"We were advised by Ronnie that at approx. 7:00 p.m. 11-02-71 while out in the sheep pen with the sheep he had heard a loud noise and saw a bright light coming from a shelter belt behind a hog house. As he watched, the light rose into the sky and left in a southerly direction. Ronnie ran into the house and got his parents who came out and saw the object in the sky still headed South.

"Mr. Johnson took us out behind the hog house where we observed a ring shaped somewhat like a donut with a hole in the middle. The ring was completely dry with the hole in the middle and outside of the ring mud. There were limbs broken from a tree and a dead tree broken off, there. There was

a slight discoloration on the trees. We were given a picture taken the previous evening by Mrs. Johnson which showed that the ring glowed in the dark. Undersheriff Enlow took a soil sample from the dried ring and photographed it.

"The soil sample taken was almost white in color and very dry. We used a Civil Defense Radiological Monitor to determine that the soil was not radioactive. The soil sample and photographs are stored in the vault in the Sheriff's Office pending further investigation by the proper authorities..."

"Signed: Harlan Enlow, Undersheriff"

9. "While visiting with Mr. Johnson and Ronnie during the noon hour, Wednesday, November 3, I learned some of the details of the previous night. This is the way it was told to me.

"Ronnie, aged 16, accompanied by his dog, was taking care of his flock of sheep, at approximately 7:00 p.m., when he suddenly saw a blinding, brilliant light and heard a loud rumbling sound that turned into a sound similar to a jet engine, and then the light ascended into the heavens in a southerly direction from an area in a shelter belt of trees behind a hog house near the sheep pen.

"He was nearly paralyzed with fear, but finally managed to run to the house and called his parents out of the house to look at the light which was still visible high in the heavens to the south of their house.

"The boy and his dog were still afraid. The dog wandered around the yard with his head up in the air as though still looking for the object."

"The family went to the area where the object was seen ascending from. There they found a large circle on the ground that had a fluorescent glow in the dark. Mrs. Johnson took a picture of the area.

"I, after listening to their experience, a little skeptical, having my curiosity aroused and being a newspaper reporter, decided to go to the Johnson farm home to take a picture of the area where the object had been.

"I was accompanied by my husband, Lester Smith, and son-in-law Kenneth [sic] McCullick, who were also curious.

"Upon arriving at the scene I knew instantly that something had left evidence that it had been there.

"The circle was still very distinct and plain to see. The soil was dried and crusted. The circle or ring was approximately 8 feet across, the center of the ring and outside area were still muddy from recent rains. The area of the ring that was dried was about a foot across and was very light in color.

"The object had crushed a dead tree to the ground either when it landed or took off and from the appearances had broken a limb of a live tree when it landed. The broken limb was most unusual; it would snap and break as though it had been dead for some time, yet it was green under the break and the upper area still had green leaves clinging to its branches, however, the lower area was free of all leaves and some of the bark on the lower areas looked as though it had been blistered and had a whitish cast.

"I took a picture of the area and went back to the newspaper office to write my story. Thinking about the almost unbelievable things I had seen, I decided to call the Concordia Weather Bureau to find out if they had seen any unidentifiable objects on radar and was told their radar had not been turned on and they advised me to notify the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office. I called KSAL in Salina to report the incident. They also advised me to report to the Sheriff's Office, which I did.

"After receiving information late in the afternoon of November 3, 1971, that personnel from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol and the Cloud County Weather Bureau had visited and taken samples of the soil and trees, I, with my husband, returned to the Johnson farm that evening to secure further information they might have for my newspaper article concerning the mysterious UFO.

"The Johnson family, my husband and I, without lights, walked in the darkness to the site.

As we came in view of the area we could see very distinctly the glowing ring. In the area around and inside the circle there was nothing but darkness giving a person an eerie feeling.

"The Johnson family, having lived in the Delphos community their entire life[sic], are respected, truthful, conscientious, trustworthy and a well thought of, typical, hard working Kansas farm family."

"Signed: Thaddia Smith, Reporter  
*Delphos Republican*"

10. The shed is located twenty three feet from the center of the ring, one edge of the shed being at 140° S and twenty seven feet from the center, the other edge 200° S and twenty five feet. The shed is twenty seven feet long and four feet high at the side toward the ring and five feet high on the south side.
11. The white substance covered ca. 30 to 60% of the surface soil and 10 - 30% of the sample volume. We found no white substance in the "normal" surrounding soil.
12. This tree was dead before the incident, but it was standing.
13. Hereafter measurements will be noted as follows: 145° S and 16, i.e. 145° south and 16 feet from the center of the ring.
14. Sheriff Enlow and I discussed this possibility and both of us feel that this is not the case.
15. The trees showed a very light yellow discoloration on December 4. On March 18, the discoloration showed chalk white.

### Comparison Cases

The following reports from Mr. Phillips' extensive files compare favorably with the Delphos, Kansas case. *Ed.*

Tucuman, Argentina, January 31, 1963 ... Two scorched rings were found, each *fourteen inches wide* with a *diameter of twelve feet* each, and lying some sixteen inches apart, forming as it were a figure "8". Police and scientists made deep cuts and found that not only the grass, but also its roots had been burnt down to a depth of four inches, "as though dessicated at a temperature in excess of 2,000°, yet *without combustion or flames.*" [Emphasis added *Ed.*] On the rings a *white ash-like powder* was found. Later, Juan G. Perea, overseer of the neighboring "El Trenzel" Ranch, said that he and his wife and children had seen an egg shaped object pass over the ranch and go down toward the precise area where the marks were found. The object was traveling at a very slow speed.

Standoff, Alberta, Canada, May, 1968 ... A Mrs. Hoeffler watched a bright circular object land about 300 yards away. The witness ran away. The next day, two oval shaped burned areas were found. Digging in the larger circle, which was *nine feet in diameter and seven and one half inches in depth*, revealed that it had been *burned down about three feet*. The center of the circle was not as badly burned as the outside perimeter. The grass grew in the burned area next year, but the sheep would not eat it. Also the growth within the oval was much coarser, greener and taller than in the area surrounding it. *The second circle was eight feet in diameter.*

Boggabri, Australia, October 19, 1970 ... Unusual ground markings were found on the property of Mr. W. Erratt. They occurred in the center of a paddock, the soil was damp and had the cohesive properties of clay. About eighty pints of rain had fallen just prior to the investigation of the site, making the site rather muddy at the time of observation. However, the initial portions of all the holes were hardened on the inside, as though they had been subjected to *great heat*. *This contrasted markedly with the soft, surrounding soil.* Compression rings were found in some cross-sections of the holes. An encrustation was found on the inside of the holes over the length which was hardened and was also found on the surface. This area also appeared *dry* and hard. The central hole was about four and one half inches in diameter, had sharp sides and appeared to be cut as if by an auger. It was inclined at about 20° to the vertical and sixteen inches deep. It was slightly greater than four and one half inches in inside diameter at the base. A *white encrustation* was found in all the holes. The markings consisted of a 'crater' eight inches deep and six feet in diameter. Inside the crater were the holes, situated apparently symmetrically about a central hole.

Waihoke, New Zealand, January 1965 ... Ross Liverton reported finding a ring in a *sheep holding pen* on his farm. The circle of bare earth was *eight feet in diameter and twelve inches wide*. The area was a quagmire of mud. But after a rain shower the circle reappeared as if the ground was porous. The rest of the ground was covered with grass, but the circle did not produce any growth. The ring *disappeared after four years.*

*Report of Photographic Consultation*  
*Niel Lynch*

*Given:* Two photocopies of what appear to be newspaper articles, one in English from the *Mainichi Daily News*, Tuesday, September 7, 1971. The other appears to be written in Japanese. Both clippings show the same photograph, purported to be a "flying saucer." Also given a photocopy of a sheet from CBA International offering additional information on the incident and finally, the *pièce de résistance*, which appears to be a piece cut from a copy of the photograph shown in the clippings.

*Discussion:* The photograph offered for analysis is 3 3/4 in. x 6 1/2 in. It appears to have been cut from a larger piece since it is an odd size and has white margins only on two sides. The picture is of a uniform gray tone distinguished by a moderate grain pattern. Near the middle is a dark object resembling the traditional edge view representation of a flying saucer, though slightly unsymmetrical. Near it are three parallel lines resembling telephone or power lines. There is nothing to indicate the top or bottom of the picture. The picture, as used in the news clippings, showed a body of water, a boat and shore line, as well as the "flying saucer" in the sky above. The reproduction is rather indistinct, but it would appear that the power lines are below the object and thus I shall assume that that is the correct orientation.

Reportedly, this picture was taken by a thirteen year old schoolboy in Japan using an Olympus Pen EE-2 camera at a shutter speed of 1/250 on color film. The diaphragm setting is unknown, since this camera sets it automatically. Detailed examination yields somewhat limited results since this is probably a second generation print. The Olympus Pen is a half-frame camera, that is it makes a negative half the size of a conventional 35mm camera. Most users prefer to use color reversal film, so that slides can be made since projection is the easiest method to view such small pictures. Thus, the picture in question probably was made from a negative made from the original transparency. Such a process always degrades the image quality. If, on the other hand, this is a black and white print made from a color negative, there is the added problem of color sensitivity. Photo paper has a very limited range of color sensitivity and the relative brightness of objects can be altered drastically in printing from a color negative to ordinary black and white paper. A special paper is made for this purpose, but there is nothing to indicate if it was used in this case.

*Analysis:* The object in question appears as a somewhat fuzzy, indistinct mass with a darker line running transversely. Such a shape might quite easily be the result of darkroom manipulations by a deliberate hoaxer; however, the grain structure continues into the two hemispherical gray areas, which would suggest that this is actually on the film. Also, the power lines are about equally fuzzy, which would be hard to match. Assuming that the object is actually a disc with hemispherical appertances above and below, there ought to be some shadow line on it somewhere, especially since the disc portion might very well shade the lower hemisphere. On the other hand, if the

*The World Sighting Index*  
*Allen Benz*

GLOBAL CASES

010	1954	10	10	Ceres	193+	002
010	1954	10	24	Porto Alegre	048	001
010	1954	11	02	Santo Amaro	197+	002
010	1954	11	04	nr Pontal	050+	001
					044	001A
					241+	007
					033	022
					092+	023
010	1954	11	10	Porto Alegre	243	007
					042	001A
010	1954	11	14	????????????????	109+	002
010	1954	11	14	Curitiba	049	001
					244	007
					033	022
					093	023
010	1954	11	14	Porto Alegre	048	001
010	1954	11	22	Santa Maria	051	001
					045	001A
					244+	007
010	1954	12	04	Pontal	105+	002
010	1954	12	09	Linha Bela Vista	052	001
					046	001A
					106+	002
					246	007
					034	022
					094+	023
010	1954	12	11	Linha Bela Vista	053	001
					046	001A
					107	002
					247	007
					034+	022
					096	023
010	1954	12	15	nr Campo Grande	195+	002
010	1956	09	??	Cabo Frio	254	007
010	1957	07	25	Sao Sebastiao	256	007
					036	022
					099+	023
010	1957	08	14	Santa Catarina State	154	001
010	1957	09	??	Campinas	257	007
010	1957	09	10	Ubatuba	104+	001
					090+	001A
					170+	005
					258	007
010	1957	10	??	Niquelandia	258+	007
					205	009

010	1957	10	05	Francisco de Salles	064+	001
					042+	002
					205+	002
					259	007
010	1957	10	10	????????????????????	110	002
010	1957	10	10	Quebracoco	259+	007
					036	022
					100+	023
010	1957	10	14	Francisco de Salles	260	007
010	1957	10	16	Francisco de Salles	260	007
010	1957	10	25	Petropolis	260+	007
010	1957	11	03	Ft. Itaipu	156+	001
010	1957	11	04	Arapangua	155	001
010	1957	11	16	Bage City	266	007
010	1957	11	18	Maracaja	110	002
					266	007
					036	022
					101	023
010	1957	12	21	Ponta Poran	146+	001
					032	002
					268+	007
010	1958	02	19	Ponta Poran	148+	001
010	1958	02	19	Porturo Ortiz	149+	001
010	1958	02	24	Conceicao Almeida	151+	001
					143	001A
					270	007
010	1958	04	??	Maceio	271	007
010	1958	04	17	Abacutu	271	007
010	1959	08	17	Uberlandia	179	001
010	1960	05	14	nr Paracuru	199+	001
					110	002
					278+	007
					037	022
					102	023
010	1961	11	??	Pinhal	199+	002
010	1962	07	30	Pasnembi	285	007
010	1962	08	17	Duas Pontes	286	007
010	1962	08	19	Duas Pontes	286	007
010	1962	08	20	Duas Pontes	213+	001
					286+	007
010	1962	09	18	Barcelos	288	007
010	1963	08	28	Sagrada Familia, nr Belo Horizonte	294	007
					037+	022
					104+	023
010	1963	10	12	nr Monte Maiz	111	002
010	1963	10	31	Peropava River	217+	001
					053+	003
					295	007
010	1965	??	??	Brazilia	080	001



NORTH AMERICAN CASES

USA	CA	1951	09	23	Long Beach	128+	006
						149	006
						152	006
USA	CA	1951	11	02	Mojave	196+	007
USA	CA	1952	07	07	Mojave Desert	044	004
USA	CA	1952	07	26	???????????????	221	006
USA	CA	1953	01	28	Malibu	050	004
USA	CA	1953	01	28	Newport Beach	050	004
USA	CA	1953	05	20	Brush Creek	118+	002
						202	007
						053	022
						146+	023
USA	CA	1953	06	20	Brush Creek	118+	002
						202	007
						053	022
						146+	023
USA	CA	1953	07	24	nr Moro Rock	178	001
USA	CA	1953	11	??	San Fernando Valley	053	004
USA	CA	1954	04	22	San Nicholas Island	206	007
USA	CA	1955	08	22	Casa Blanca, nr Riverside	251+	007
USA	CA	1956	01	18	Redondo Beach	069+	004
USA	CA	1956	06	06	Banning	253	007
USA	CA	1956	07	20	Panorama City (Part of L.A.)	253	007
						064	022
						178	023
USA	CA	1956	07	22	nr Pixley	071+	004
USA	CA	1957	02	13	Placerville	076+	004
USA	CA	1957	02	13	Placerville	076+	004
USA	CA	1957	11	06	Playa Del Rey	126+	002
						263	007
						056+	022
						156+	023
USA	CA	1957	12	??	El Cajon	267	007
USA	CA	1958	03	14	Healdsburg	270	007
USA	CA	1958	01	01	Newport Beach	095	004
USA	CA	1959	12	22	Oakdale	278	007
USA	CA	1960	08	13	nr Red Bluff	180+	001
						153+	004
						225	004
USA	CA	1960	08	13	nr Red Bluff	180+	001
						153+	004
						225	004
USA	CA	1962	07	28	off Santa Catalina Island	051+	003
USA	CA	1964	02	05	Cape	053	003
USA	CA	1962	09	??	Orland	287	007
USA	CA	1964	04	30	Baker	298	007
						075	008
USA	CA	1964	05	13	Rio Vista	298	007

USA	CA	1964	09	04	Truckee	074+	001
						137+	002
						303	007
						061+	022
						169+	023
USA	CA	1964	11	03	nr Pescadero	242	004
USA	CA	1965	10	04	Rio Vista	319	007
USA	CA	1966	03	31	San Francisco	326	007
USA	CA	1966	08	20	Healdsburg	134+	007
USA	CA	1967	09	01	Edwards AFB	124+	005
USA	CA	1968	02	04	Redlands	196+	005
USA	CO	1950	01	29	South Table Mountain	193+	007
USA	CO	1960	08	11	nr Boulder	182+	001
						223+	004
USA	CO	1962	10	24	Horsetooth Reservoir	238	007
USA	CO	1962	10	26	Horsetooth Reservoir	213	001
						237	004
USA	CO	1962	10	26	San Luis Valley	236+	004
USA	CO	1965	08	02	Canon City	238	001
USA	CO	1966	03	23	Trinidad	270	001
						253	004
USA	CO	1966	04	07	Daniels Park	328	007
USA	CO	1966	07	20	Idaho Springs	273	001
USA	CO	1967	03	18	Montrose	162	003
USA	CO	1967	05	??	nr Alamosa	163	003
USA	CO	1967	05	??	Mt. Blanca	163	003
USA	CO	1967	09	07	Alamosa	155+	005
USA	CO	1967	09	09	San Luis Valley	148+	003
USA	CO	1967	09	15	Alamosa	352	007
						344	013
USA	CO	1967	09	28	nr Alamosa	163	003
USA	CO	1967	09	28	Mt. Blanca	163+	003
USA	CO	1967	09	30	Lakewood	164	003
USA	CO	1967	10	01	Lakewood	164	003
USA	CO	1967	10	05	Denver	165	003
USA	CO	1967	10	11	Manassa	165	003
USA	CO	1967	10	14	San Luis Valley	165+	003
USA	CO	1967	10	26	Commerce City	177	003
USA	CO	1967	10	28	Naturita	177+	003
USA	CT	1957	02	09	Georgetown	254	007
USA	CT	1957	12	16	Old Saybrook	077	001
						127+	002
						268	007
						057	022
						157+	023
USA	CT	1965	10	04	Southington	319	007
USA	CT	1966	04	08	Norwalk	272	001
						108+	003
USA	CT	1966	04	08	Norwalk	328	007
						108	003

# INDEX TO VOLUME TWO OF UFO COMMENTARY

Adams, Mrs. R.: (2) 10  
 Airship:  
     explanations, (1) 9  
     seen over  
         Illinois, (1) 9  
         Iowa, (1) 9  
         Leroy, KS, (1) 9  
         Matteawan, NY, (3) 12  
         Michigan, (1) 9  
         Pella, IA, (3) 11-12  
         South Dakota, (1) 9

*Anatomy of a Phenomenon*:  
     cited, (1) 9  
 Andrejevica, Yugoslavia:  
     UFOs sighted near, (3) 3  
 Angel hair:  
     fall of, (2) 10  
 Animals:  
     effects on, (4) 7, 20  
 Animal reaction to UFOs  
     see  
 Reactions to UFOs--Animal  
     see also  
 Animals

Ariss, William:  
     on Australian skyfall,  
     (2) 10  
 Australia:  
     mysterious skyfalls in,  
     (2) 10

Bare, Yugoslavia:  
     sightings near (3) 4  
 Barrow-in-Furness, (UK):  
     mysterious skyfall at,  
     (2) 10  
 Benz, Allen:  
     articles by, (3) 13-17, 18  
     (4) 14-17  
     editorials, (3) 2; (4) 2  
     vita, (3) 19  
 Boaria, Italy:  
     sighting over, (3) 8

Bojovich, Yugoslavia:  
     UFOs sighted near, (3) 3  
 Book reviews:  
     *Behold...the Venus garuda*, (2) 12  
     *Flying saucers: an analysis of the  
     Air Force Project Blue Book Special  
     Project # 17*, (2) 11  
     *God, man and the UFOs*, (2) 11-12  
     *Gods from outer space*, (2) 13  
     *Harmonic 33*, (1) 11-12, 29  
     *Intercept -- But don't shoot*, (2) 13  
     *Investigating the unexplained*,  
     (4)  
     *Invisible Residents*, (2) 14  
     *Our Haunted Planet*, (3) 9  
     *Passport to eternity*, (2) 14  
     *Radix*, (2) 12  
     *Secrets of the Great Pyramid*, (3) 10  
     *UFOs & diamagnetism*, (2) 13  
     *UFOs: Key to the new age*, (4)  
     *UFOs over the southern hemisphere*,  
     (2) 11  
     *What the Bible says about flying  
     saucers*, (2) 14  
     *Wright Field story*, (2) 11  
 Brill, Joseph M.:  
     article by, (3) 3-7  
 Brnjak, Yugoslavia:  
     sighting over, (3) 6  
 Buffalo (NY) Evening News:  
     airship report carried by, (3) 12  
 Buturich, Svetozar:  
     sighting by, (3) 3

Cases, Global  
     see  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Sigh-  
 tings, Global  
 Cases, North American  
     see  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Sigh-  
 tings, North American  
 Cases, Type A:  
     definition, (3) 8

- Catalogs, Computerized, (1) 5-8, 10; (4) 12  
 advantages, (1) 7  
 problems with, (1) 5  
*Cleveland Leader*:  
 airship report carried by, (3) 11-12  
 Cohoke, Virginia:  
 letter re mysterious light near, (2) 19-20  
 Collins, Kevin J: (2) 9  
 Condon committee:  
 comments, (2) 9, 14  
 Condon, Edward U.:  
 comments, (2) 9  
 Critchfield, Willard: (4) 7  
 Crni Vrh, Mt.  
*see*  
 Mt. Crni Vrh, Yugoslavia  
 Delphos, Kansas:  
 sighting near, (4) 3-7, 20  
 Documents, Government  
*see*  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Bibliography  
 Dubocak, Mt.  
*see*  
 Mt. Dubocak, Yugoslavia  
 Dupo, Illinois  
 sighting over, (3) 8  
 Dyke, Rod B.: (2) 9  
 Eaves, Mrs. Leon: (2) 16  
*Ekspres Politika*:  
 reports carried in, (3) 6-7  
 El Trenzel ranch, Argentina:  
 sighting near, (4)  
 Electromagnetic pollution:  
 comments on, (1) 32
- Enlow, Ralph:  
 on Delphos sighting, (4) 7
- Evidence, Physical  
*see*  
 Traces, Physical  
*see also*  
 Specific topic e.g. fires, marks in ground etc.
- Extraterrestrial hypothesis: ..  
 comments on, (2) 6, 20  
 Extraterrestrial life:  
 problems of communicating with, (2) 5  
 Farish, Lucius:  
 articles by, (1) 9-10; (3) 11-12  
 vita, (3) 19  
 Fires:  
 started by UFOs, (3) 3-8  
 mysterious forest fires, (3) 3-7  
 Forest fires, Mysterious  
*see*  
 Fires  
 Fort, Charles:  
 and airships, (1) 9-10  
 letter to Alexander Hamilton, (1) 9-19  
 Global cases  
*see*  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Sightings, Global  
 Goddard, Sir Victor:  
 on UFOs, (2) 5  
 Gornje Polimje, Yugoslavia:  
 UFO sighting over (3) 4  
 Government documents  
*see*  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Bibliography  
*The Great Pyramid*: (1) 11  
 Hallucinations:  
 proffered explanation for contacts, (1) 31  
 Hamilton, Alexander:  
 sighting by, (1) 9  
 Hervey, Michael:  
 article by, (2) 10, 16
- Houston, Texas:  
 mysterious animal found near, (2) 16  
 Huyghe, Patrick A.:  
 editorial by, (1) 4  
 vita, (3) 19  
 Illinois:  
 sighting, (3) 8  
*Investigating the unexplained*:  
 review of, (4) 11  
 Iowa:  
 airship sightings, (3) 11-12; (1) 9

Iron Curtain sightings and research:  
   Brill, Joseph M. (3) 8  
 Italy:  
   sightings, (3) 8  
 Ivangrad, Yugoslavia:  
   UFOs sighted over, (3) 3,4,7  
 Jenkins, Mrs. William: (2) 10  
 Johnson, Durel:  
   sighting by, (4) 3-7,20  
 Johnson, Erma:  
   sighting by, (4) 3-7,20  
 Johnson, Ronald:  
   sighting by, (4) 3-7,20  
 Jolich, D.:  
   investigations by, (3) 4,5  
 Jovich, D.:  
   sighting by, (3) 3  
   on Yugoslavian reports, (3) 3  
 Jublan, Yugoslavia:  
   sighting near, (3) 4  
 Kansas:  
   Airship seen over, (1) 9-10  
   sightings, (4) 3-7,20  
 Keel, John A.:  
   articles by, (1) 30-32; (2)  
   5-6,20  
   on electromagnetic pollution,  
   (1) 32  
 Kolasin, Yugoslavia:  
   UFO sighting over, (3) 4,6  
 Komovi, Mt.  
   *see*  
 Mt. Komovi, Yugoslavia  
 Korzybski, Alfred:  
   statement by, (3) 2  
 Kosovska Metrovica, Yugoslavia:  
   sightings near, (3) 5  
 Kralje, Yugoslavia:  
   sightings near, (3) 4  
 Krupac, Lake  
   *see*  
 Lake Krupac, Yugoslavia  
 Lake Krupac, Yugoslavia  
   UFO sighting near, (3) 3  
 Lambeth, H.D.: (2) 10  
 Lancashire (UK):  
   mysterious skyfall at, (2)10  
 Lansing, J.W.:  
   airship sighting by, (3) 11-12  
 Leroy, KS  
   airship seen over, (1) 9  
 Leskovac, Yugoslavia:  
   UFO sighting over, (3) 4  
 Libraries, Public:  
   UFO publications held, (2) 7-8  
 Lijevo Rijecka, Yugoslavia:  
   UFO sighting over (3) 4  
 Lilly, John C.:  
   comments by, (2) 5  
 Luino, Italy:  
   sighting over, (3) 8  
 Lynch, Niel:  
   vita, (3) 20  
 Marks in ground: (3) 6,8; (4) 4  
 Matsevo, Yugoslavia:  
   UFO sighting over, (3) 4  
 Matteawan, NY  
   airship seen over, (3) 12  
 Medenica, Danilla:  
   on fires, (3) 6-7  
 Medjedjak, Mt.  
   *see*  
 Mt. Medjeejak, Yugoslavia  
 Mihailovich, Lj.:  
   on Yugoslavian reports, (3) 5-6  
 Milossevich, Milivoje:  
   sighting by, (3) 4  
 Mokra Gora forest company:  
   efforts at fire control, (3) 5  
 Mokra Gora, Mt.  
   *see*  
 Mt. Mokra Gora, Yugoslavia  
 Moon:  
   influence of, (1) 31  
 Moreca, Yugoslavia:  
   UFO sighting near, (3) 4  
 Mt. Crni Vrh, Yugoslavia:  
   set ablaze, (3) 4-5  
 Mt. Dubocak, Yugoslavia:  
   set ablaze, (3) 5  
 Mt. Komovi, Yugoslavia:  
   set ablaze, (3) 3-4  
 Mt. Medjedjak, Yugoslavia:  
   set ablaze, (3) 5  
 Mt. Mokra Gora, Yugoslavia:  
   set ablaze, (3) 5

- Mt. Ostravica, Yugoslavia:  
 set ablaze, (3) 4
- Mt. Prekobrđje, Yugoslavia:  
 set ablaze, (3) 4
- Mt. Rovci, Yugoslavia:  
 set ablaze, (3) 4
- Mt. Sirjajevina, Yugoslavia:  
 set ablaze, (3) 4
- Mysterious forest fires  
*see*
- Fires
- Mysterious skyfalls  
*see*
- Skyfalls
- Newspapers:  
 reports of Yugoslavian flap,  
 (3) 3-7
- New Lands*:  
 airship material in, (1) 9
- New York:  
 airship sightings, (3) 12
- New York Journal*:  
 airship report carried by,  
 (3) 12
- Niksic, Yugoslavia:  
 UFO sighting near, (3) 3
- North American cases  
*see*
- Unidentified Flying Objects--  
 Sightings, North American  
*Our inheritance in the great  
 pyramid*: (1) 11
- Ostravica, Mt.  
*see*
- Mt. Ostravica, Yugoslavia
- Parallel universe:  
 and UFOs, (2) 5
- Pella, IA  
 airship seen over, (3) 11-12
- Percipients: (1) 30; (2) 6
- Phillips, Ted:  
 article by, (4) 3-7,20  
 on Delphos sighting, (4)  
 on Yugoslavian flap, (3) 8  
 vita, (3) 20
- Physical traces: (3) 3-8; (4) 3-7,20  
 broken tree, (4) 4  
 burn marks, ground, (4) 4  
 glowing circle, (4) 4  
 glowing trees, (4) 4  
 residue, white, (4) 4  
 type A cases, (3) 8
- Po-di-Gnocca, Italy:  
 sighting at, (3) 8
- Pollution, Electromagnetic  
*see*  
 Electromagnetic pollution
- Power failures and UFOs:  
 studies of, (1) 32
- Prekobrđje, Mt.  
*see*
- Mt. Prekobrđje, Yugoslavia
- Public libraries  
*see*
- Libraries, Public
- Pyramidology: (1) 11
- Radovich, Mijo:  
 burned, (3) 4
- Rakocevic, Mojsije:  
 burned, (3) 4
- Reactions to UFOs--Animal, (3) 5-6,8:  
 (4) 7,20
- Reactions to UFOs--Human, (3) 8;(4)3,4
- Rovci, Mt.  
*see*
- Mt. Rovci, Yugoslavia
- St. Louis Globe-Democrat*:  
 airship report carried in, (1) 10
- St. Louis, Missouri:  
 mysterious skyfall at, (2) 10
- San Diego. Public Library:  
 UFO publications held by, (2) 7-8
- Sanderson, Ivan T.:  
 definition of ufology, (2) 5
- Saunders, David R.:  
 articles by, (1) 5-8,10; (4) 12,20
- Scepanovich, Milika:  
 sighting by, (3) 4
- Secret inventions:  
 explanation for airships, (1) 9

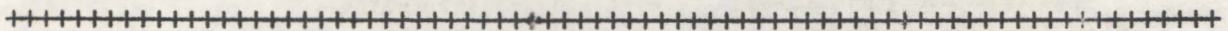
Sheep: effects on, (4), 7, 20  
 Shepherds: losses incurred by, (3) 6  
 Sirjajevina, Mt. *see*  
 Mt. Sirjajevina, Yugoslavia  
 Skyfalls, Mysterious: (2) 10, 16  
 Slatina, Yugoslavia: sighting over, (3) 4-5  
 Smith, Paul.: on power failures and UFOs, (1) 32  
  
 Sounds: (4) 3  
 Space-time continua: nad UFOs, (2) 5  
  
 Statements: re Yugoslavian flap, (3) 6-7  
 Statistical approach: comments, (1) 30-31  
 Stuttgart, Germany: mysterious skyfalls at, (2) 16  
 Time factors: (1) 31  
 Traces *see*  
 Physical traces *see also*  
 specific topic e.g. Fires, Marks in ground etc.  
 Trees: glowing, (4) 4  
 Trifunovic, Mica: sighting by, (3) 7  
  
 Type A cases *see*  
 Cases, Type A  
 UFO Commentary: statement of purpose, (3) 2  
 UFOCAT: basic considerations, (1) 5-7  
  
 computer study of UFOs (1) 5-10  
 format of, (4) 12, 20  
 non-UFO events, (1) 8  
 purpose, (1) 5, 6  
 sources of data, (1) 7-8  
 supplemental data, (1) 8, 10  
 UFOs: *Key to the new age*: review of, (4) 10  
 Ufological research: essential problem of, (2) 6  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Bibliography: of government documents, (1) 13-29  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Sightings: clustering of reports, (1) 31  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Sightings, Global: (3) 3-7, 8-18; (4) 13-15  
 Unidentified Flying Objects -- Sightings, North American: (3) 7, 11-12, 18; (4) 3-7, 8-9, 16-18  
 U.S. Weather Bureau. Concordia, Kansas Office.: on Delphos sighting, (4) 7  
 Vallee, Jacques: (i) 9  
*Vecernje Novosti*: UFO reports carried by, (3) 4-6  
 Vujisich, Milija: sighting by, (3) 4  
 Vujovich, Punisha: sighting by (3) 3  
 Vukicevich, Milovan: sighting by, (3) 5  
 Vukich, Stana: sighting by, (3) 4-5  
 Vukich, Zarije: sighting by, (3) 4-5  
 Vukovich, Mihajlo: on Yugoslavian flap, (3) 6  
 WSI *see*  
 World Sighting Index  
 Walton, Richard: article by, (2) 9, 14

Report of Photographic Consultation - continued from page 13

object was roughly cigar shaped with a line painted on it longitudinally & if it was more or less backlighted, it might photograph as shown. Also, a roughly diamond shaped object with rounded corners in a nearly flat position might photograph thusly.

Conclusions: The object shown is probably actually on the negative. It is impossible to assess the distance from the camera since that camera has a lens with an extreme depth of field. The picture might be of a kite, frisbee, hubcap or similar thing quite close to the camera. It might be something on a pane of glass that the picture was taken through, either as a deliberate hoax or accidentally. There is no indication whether the picture was taken through a window or outside. It is unlikely that this is dirt on the lens, and only a small possibility that it is dirt on the film. Dirt on the lens is usually very blurred, while dirt on the film tends to have sharp edges and no grain structure in the spot.

I would therefore conclude that the object is some actual object photographed in the air and I would conjecture that it was fairly close to the camera and resulted from the agency of the schoolboy photographer or an associate. In the absence of a better photograph, no further conclusions can be drawn.



INDEX TO VOLUME TWO continued from page 22

Weather Bureau	Key to, (3) 13-27
<i>see</i>	North American cases, (3) 18; (4)
U.S. Weather Bureau	Global cases, (3) 18; (4)
Wednesday phenomenon: (1) 31	Yonkers, New York:
Whitsett, NC	Airship seen over, (3) 12
fall of angel hair at, (2) 10	Yugoslavia:
Witnesses:	flap in, (3) 3-7
effects on	Yugoslavia. Interior Department:
blindness, (4) 3	on UFO reports, (3) 6-7
numbing, (4) 4	Zubin Potok, Yugoslavia:
World Sighting Index:	fire control base camp, (3) 5
Purpose of, (3) 13	

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